

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants respectfully request formal acknowledgement of the claim of foreign priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Turning to the merits, the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in various claims is noted with appreciation.

Without acceding to the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, independent Claims 1 and 20 have been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter from Claims 3 and 22 (both now cancelled), respectively. Analogous amendments have been made in independent Claims 10 and 29, which are therefore also considered to be allowable.

Accordingly, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

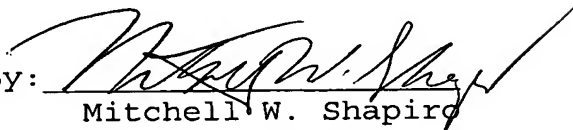
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension

of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MWS:sjk

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